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**ANNUAL ARBITRATION & LABOR RELATIONS CONFERENCE
SET FOR SEPTEMBER 2006**

Helena – The 27th annual Arbitration and Labor Relations Conference will be held on September 20, 21 and 22, 2006, at the Best Western GranTree Inn in Bozeman. The conference provides a forum for everyone in the labor relations arena to meet, exchange information and learn from one another. The Montana Board of Personnel Appeals will conduct its regular September meeting directly following the conference on Friday afternoon.

National Academy of Arbitrators members Ron Hoh and Rex Wiant conduct the Arbitration Training on September 20, with the morning program entitled *The Basics of Factfinding and Interest Arbitration* and the afternoon program entitled *Witness and Case Preparation and Presentation: What the Arbitrator Looks For*.

Conference begins on September 21 with the Keynote Address *Impact of Interest Arbitration on Collective Bargaining* on September 21.

Other topics of interest at the Labor Relations Conference include presentations entitled *'No' Is Not Necessarily An Unfair Labor Practice* and *The Book Shelf: Basic Resources in Labor Relations*. Retired FMCS Regional Director Doug Hammond will present *Lemon Tree: Mediator Confidentiality vs. The Subpoena*. Montana employment law developments will be reviewed as well as retirement issues that are often involved in arbitration remedies.

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Concurrent sessions will be offered on negotiation and arbitration, such as *Managing Emotions in Conflict* by Carson Taylor and District Court Judge Ingrid Gustafson; and *Get Off Of My Cloud: Increasing Presence of Attorneys Where Lay Advocates Once Predominated* led by Jeff Minckler, Matt Thiel and David Stiteler.

Links to detailed agendas for the programs are at www.mtlaborrelationsconf.com along with presenter biographical information and on-line pre-registration information.

The Annual Arbitration and Labor Relations Conference 2006 is sponsored by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Board of Personnel Appeals, Montana Arbitration Association, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, the National Labor Relations Board and the Dispute Resolution Committee of the Montana State Bar.

If you have any questions please contact Vicki Knudsen at vknudsen@mt.gov or by calling 406-444-0038.

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